

Sanders presented peace award for service to survivors

Family Violence and Rape Crisis Services (FVRC) announced recently that Jo Sanders, Co-Executive Director, was given the Peace Award at the 2010 biennial conference of the North Carolina Coalition Against Domestic Violence (NCCADV). The Peace Award recognizes an individual victim advocate who has gone above and beyond in providing direct services to survivors of domestic violence.

"Hardworking, loyal, dedicated and empowering are a few of the words that can be used to describe this person," said presenter Jessie Croom, Shelter Manager for the Family Violence Coalition in Yancey County and 2008 recipient of the Peace Award. "She works as a solid team member in a local domestic violence program, serving as a healer, building bridges and forming allies in her community. In addition, this person's work embodies the spirit of the NCCADV's commitment to dismantling oppression."

Sanders has been working in the domestic violence field since 1988 and is currently the Co-Executive Director of Family Violence and Rape Crisis Services of Chatham County. She has served as a visiting lecturer and assistant adjunct professor in the UNC-Chapel Hill School of Social Work, teaching family violence classes and supervising field placements.

"All of us at FVRC are so thrilled that Jo's dedication to

this work and this community has been recognized," said Kathy Hodges, FVRC Co-Executive Director. "Her leadership has been evident in the creation of the Coalition for Family Peace and the Sexual Assault Response Team, both geared towards improving our community's response to domestic and sexual violence."

"This is very touching and deeply humbling," said Sanders when receiving the award. "There are never enough awards to go around... Nothing could make me more honored than to be recognized by my esteemed peers."

Over the 22 years that Sand-

ers has led the agency, FVRC's services have greatly expanded from the initial 24-hour crisis line. Now there is comprehensive intervention through community and court advocacy, support groups, shelter, long-term individual and family counseling, children's programs, parenting education, and services to batterers and extensive prevention programs.

"What Jo cares about is creating an agency that accurately reflects the nature of the work and how society should respond to victims of domestic violence and sexual assault," wrote her anonymous nominator. "Jo is a rebel, a feminist, a great thinker and activist, an inspiration to many, and a source of comfort and acceptance to everyone associated with FVRC."



PEACE AWARD PRESENTED ...
Jessie Croom (l-r), shelter manager for the Family Violence Coalition in Yancey County and 2008 recipients of the Peace Award, and Jo Sanders, Family Violence and Rape Crisis Co-Executive Director for Chatham County.